Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Risk Factors:
- Possibly Autoimmune
- Association with Immunizations
- Frequently preceded by mild respiratory or intestinal infection
- Progresses over hours to days
- Minimal Muscle Atrophy

Symmetrical Paralysis
Causes Problems With:
- Respiration
- Talking
- Swallowing
- Bowel & Bladder Function

Begin in lower extremities and ascend bilaterally =
1) Weakness
2) Ataxia
3) Bilateral Paresthesia Progressing to Paralysis.
Guillain-barre Syndrome is a disorder in which the body’s immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 2001, p. 1)

The disorder starts by numbing the legs, and then the hands, and if severe can completely paralyze some muscles. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 2001, p. 1)

This syndrome can be quite hard to diagnose. (U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2016)
Who-What Populations Have this Health Issue and Where

- Anyone anywhere can develop GBS; it is more common among older adults. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2011)
- It is also more likely if you are a male. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, (2016)
- It is a rare syndrome, only afflicting about 1 person out of 100,000 people. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, (2001, p. 1)
Infection with the bacterium Campylobacter Jejuni is one of the most common risk factors of GBS. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2011)

GBS is seen with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. It isn’t clear whether it is a cause of the Lymphoma, or caused by it. Ertiaei, Ghajarzadeh, Javdan, Taffakhori, Siroos, Esfandbod, & Saberi, (2015)

The syndrome usually follows a bacterial or viral infection of some sort. Medicine Net, (2016)

Greater risk if you are an adult over 50 and a male. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, (2016)
Signs, Symptoms, or Problems with this Issue

- In GBS, the immune system starts to destroy the myelin sheath that surrounds the axons of several peripheral nerves, or even the axons themselves. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, (2001, p. 2)

- Muscles lose their ability to respond to the brain’s commands. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, (2001, p. 1)

- It can be hard to diagnose due to the fact that there are multiple symptoms with many different onsets. Medicine Net, (2016)

- Some of the symptoms include prickling, "pins and needles" sensations in your fingers, toes, ankles or wrists, difficulty breathing, and unsteady walking or inability to walk or climb stairs. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, (2016)
Intervention, Solutions, or Treatments

- There is no known cure for GBS. There are therapies that lessen the severity of the illness and speed up the recovery time for the patient. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, (2001, p. 5)

- Currently, plasma exchange (also called plasmapheresis) and high-dose immunoglobulin therapy are used. Both of them are equally effective, but immunoglobulin is easier to administer. Medicine Net, (2016)

- The most critical part of the treatment for this syndrome consists of keeping the patient's body functioning during recovery of the nervous system. Medicine Net, (2016)
Why I Chose this Topic

- I chose this topic because it is not a very well known disease and is rare.
- Another reason I chose Guillain-Barre Syndrome is because I have a cousin and very close friend who have the disease.
- One more reason is because it is a severe disease that can greatly impact and ruin your life, sometimes leading to death. I wanted more people to know what this disease is.